

tell the truth; doctors and pharmacists who work without rest in overcrowded wards; health workers, often with HIV themselves, who visit homes and make sure people are taking their medicine; people who run youth groups and clubs that encourage abstinence and help children with HIV face the challenges of life. Many of these good people who serve others are also motivated by their deep faith. And we want to expand these partnerships.

So today I am pleased to announce the New Partners Initiative. Through this initiative, which is part of the Emergency Plan, we will further reach out to our faith-based and community organizations that provide much of the health care in the developing world and make sure they have access to an American assistance. By identifying and supporting these organizations, we will reach more people, more effectively and save more lives.

Americans have always stood for human dignity when history calls. When the nations of Europe lay in rubble after World War II, America helped build a brighter future with the Marshall plan. When the developing world looked for help and inspiration, we sent the Peace Corps to lay new foundations for friendship. And now, as millions afflicted with AIDS reach out for help, the American people are once again responding. On this World AIDS Day, we are proud to stand with our friends and partners in this urgent struggle. And every life we help to save makes us proud to be Americans.

I want to thank you all for your good work. Thank you for joining us today. May God bless those who suffer, may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:08 a.m. in Room 450 in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Proclamation 7967—World AIDS Day, 2005

December 1, 2005

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

On World AIDS Day, we remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS, and we recommit ourselves to fighting and preventing HIV/AIDS and to comforting those infected and their loved ones.

The United States is working with its partners around the world to turn the tide against HIV/AIDS. In May 2003, we committed \$15 billion over 5 years to support treatment, prevention, and care. This plan is designed to support and strengthen the AIDS-fighting strategies of many nations, including 15 affected countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. Approximately 400,000 men, women, and children in sub-Saharan Africa have received life-saving treatment supported through this program. This is a remarkable improvement from 2 years ago, when just 50,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa were receiving treatment for HIV/AIDS. The plan focuses on the ABC prevention message—Abstain, Be faithful, and use Condoms—with abstinence being the only sure way to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS. We are also working with faith-based and community organizations and local leaders around the world to expand testing facilities, upgrade clinics and hospitals, and train and support medical personnel.

Here at home, more than 1 million people suffer from HIV/AIDS. To stop the spread of this virus, we are focusing extraordinary Federal efforts and resources to increase routine voluntary testing, improve access to life-extending care, and develop a vaccine. We are also grateful for the work of faith-based and community programs whose efforts in these areas are helping to improve the lives of our citizens.

On World AIDS Day, we recognize the effect of HIV/AIDS and renew our commitment to defeat this pandemic. Americans believe that every life matters and every person counts. The United States will continue to

spread a vision of hope as we stand with people from around the world to face the challenges of HIV/AIDS with courage and determination. Together, we can build a better future for all.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2005, as World AIDS Day. I urge the Governors of the States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of the other territories subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in appropriate activities to remember those who have lost their lives to this deadly disease and to comfort and support those living with HIV/AIDS.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:25 a.m., December 2, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 5.

Remarks on Signing Legislation To Place a Statue of Rosa Parks in the National Statuary Hall at the United States Capitol

December 1, 2005

The President. Welcome. Please be seated. Thank you all for being here. Laura and I thank you for joining us on this special day.

Fifty years ago, an African American woman named Rosa Parks helped set in motion a national movement for equality and freedom when she refused a bus driver's order to give her seat to a white man. The bill I'm about to sign calls for a statue of Rosa Parks to be placed in the Capitol's National Statuary Hall.

By placing her statue in the heart of the Nation's Capitol, we commemorate her work for a more perfect union, and we commit

ourselves to continue to struggle for justice for every American.

I'm honored the Secretary of State has joined us as well as Secretary Alphonso Jackson. I want to thank the bill sponsors, Jesse Jackson, Jr.—I see you brought some of your family with you—[laughter]—Senator John Kerry, Senator Thad Cochran, Senator Dick Lugar joining us as well.

I'm proud that Bruce Gordon is here. He's the president and CEO of the NAACP. Thanks for joining us, Bruce. I want to thank all the civil rights leaders who've joined us as well. I particularly want to say thanks to Elaine Steele, representative of the Rosa Parks Institute.

Elaine Eason Steele. Right here.

The President. Thank you. Welcome. We've got a seat for you.

It's great to see Dr. Dorothy Height as well. Welcome, Dr. Height. I want to thank all of Rosa Parks' family who have joined us as well. You're kind to come.

Rosa Parks was the daughter of the South who worked as a seamstress at a department store in a Montgomery, Alabama. On December 1, 1955, she boarded a city bus. Under local and State law, African Americans had to give up their seats if any white people were standing. But after a lifetime of discrimination and a hard day's work, Rosa refused. As she would say later, quote, "I wasn't tired physically or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

By refusing to give in, Rosa Parks showed that one candle can light the darkness. Like so many institutionalized evils, segregation ultimately depended on public accommodation. Like so many institutionalized evils, once the ugliness of these laws was held up to the light, they could not stand. Like so many institutionalized evils, these laws proved no match for the power of an awakened conscience, and as a result, the cruelty and humiliation of the Jim Crow laws are now a thing of the past.

By refusing to give in, Rosa Parks helped inspire a nationwide effort for equal justice under the law. When she refused to yield her seat, Mrs. Parks was arrested, convicted of violating the segregation laws, and fined \$10, plus \$4 in court fees. Her arrest sparked